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COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS ACTING AS PREPARATORY BODY FOR THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DEVOTED TO THE FIGHT AGAINST THE ILLICIT PRODUCTION, SALE, DEMAND, TRAFFIC AND DISTRIBUTION OF NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES AND RELATED ACTIVITIES
Third informal open-ended inter-sessional meeting
Vienna, 5 December 1997

OPENING OF THE MEETING AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.

2. Eradication of illicit narcotic crops and promotion of alternative development programmes.

3. Other matters.

4. Report on the outcome of proceedings.

Annotations

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs acting as preparatory body for the special session of the General Assembly devoted to the fight against the illicit production, sale, demand, traffic and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and related activities, which is scheduled to take place in June 1988, held its first session from 26 to 27 March 1997. At its first session, the Commission acting as preparatory body for the special session adopted decision 1/1, in which it decided to hold informal open-ended inter-sessional meetings from 7 to 9 July 1997, from 7 to 9 October 1997 and on 5 December 1997 (E/1997/48, para. 2).

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It is expected that, by redeploying resources available to the regular segment of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at the reconvened fortieth session, the third inter-sessional meeting will be able to begin its work on the afternoon of 3 December and continue during the morning of 4 December before concluding its work on 5 December 1997.

At the first session of the Commission acting as preparatory body for the special session (E/1997/48, para. 13), it was agreed that the following issues would be considered during the preparatory process: reaffirmation of the political commitment of Governments to international drug control; demand reduction, in particular adoption of the guiding principles on demand reduction and proposals for implementation; and (a) measures to counter the illicit manufacture of, traffic in and abuse of stimulants, (b) measures to enhance the control and monitoring of precursors frequently used in the manufacture of illicit drugs, (c) measures to promote judicial cooperation, (d) measures to counter money-laundering and (e) illicit crop eradication and alternative development.

The first inter-sessional meeting, held from 7 to 9 July 1997, examined measures to counter the illicit manufacture of, traffic in and abuse of stimulants and measures to enhance the control and monitoring of precursors frequently used in the manufacture of illicit drugs. The second inter-sessional meeting, held from 7 to 9 October 1997, examined measures to promote judicial cooperation and measures to counter money-laundering.

Item 1

The officers of the third inter-sessional meeting will be the same as those of the first session of the Commission acting as preparatory body for the special session.

Item 2

In the last several decades, alternative development, which is used to prevent, reduce, eliminate and eradicate illicit crop cultivation, has come to be widely recognized by the international community as an indispensable component of the international drug control strategy. The methodologies and approaches used for alternative development have been elaborated and refined during a number of years in a series of projects by Governments and by the United Nations International Drug Control Programme with the support of the international community. While these methodologies and approaches have demonstrated their effectiveness, experience has shown that their application must be backed by sufficient political will, by enforcement measures, by appropriate governmental policies and institutions and by adequate financial resources in order to ensure that they have a long-term impact and sustainability.

The eradication of illicit crops is a basic tool used to reduce illicit cultivation. The third inter-sessional meeting could assess the current use and availability of methods of identifying illicit crops and the use of environmentally safe and effective methods of eradicating them. It also could identify measures to increase access to accurate and cost-effective techniques used to identify illicit crops. In additional, it might consider how best to promote the use of safe and effective techniques to eradicate illicit crops.

The third inter-sessional meeting might wish to identify and propose measures for a global strategy to enhance the prevention, reduction, elimination and eradication of illicit crop cultivation and to promote alternative development for consideration and approval by the General Assembly at its special session on international drug control.

Documentation

Draft declaration on alternative development: proposal by Colombia (E/CN.7/1997/PC/CRP.7)
Note by the Secretariat on the eradication of illicit narcotic crops and promotion of alternative development programmes (E/CN.7/1997/PC/CRP.8)

Item 3

The following matters requiring action at the third inter-sessional meeting have been brought to the attention of the Secretariat:

(a) Progress report on the draft declaration on the guiding principles of drug demand reduction: the third inter-sessional meeting will receive a progress report on the preparation of the draft declaration on the guiding principles of drug demand reduction and the latest revised text of the draft declaration will be made available to it;

(b) Possible elements for inclusion in a political declaration at the special session: the third inter-sessional meeting may wish to give some initial consideration to possible elements for inclusion in the political declaration of the special session of the General Assembly; while the text of the political declaration will be finalized only during the special session itself, the Commission could further preparations for the special session by identifying areas of activity where government commitment could be reinforced and presented in a statement of intended action.

Documentation

Draft declaration on the guiding principles of drug demand reduction (E/CN.7/1998/PC/6)

Item 4

Because of the informal nature of the intersessional meetings and the limited time available for deliberations, the first and second inter-sessional meetings decided to adopt a simplified reporting system by instructing the rapporteur to produce a report after each of those meetings. The report on the third inter-sessional meeting will also be before the second session of the Commission acting as preparatory body, to be held from 16 to 20 March 1998.